

Boomers Health Care and Economic Security

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Associate State Director for Advocacy since April 1993, Ernie has led AARP's public policy efforts including grassroots and elections campaigns, Medicare and Social Security initiatives as well as on other state-specific issues in California. Among the policy issues he has led AARP California campaigns on are:

- Opposition to reductions in Medicare funding and increases in the age of Medicare eligibility.
- Support for additional Medicare benefits for women and low income beneficiaries as well as fiscal improvements to Medicare; helped secure a prescription drug benefit in Medicare.
- Reform of California's nursing homes.
- Protection for older homeowners impacted by predatory lending practices.
- Initiation of the Permanent Absentee Voter application which assists voters with mobility problems to continue to exercise their voting franchise.
- Support for Health Care Reform in California.

Ernie is the co- initiator of the AARP Advocacy Academy which has led to the adoption of "Direct Action Organizing" training as an effective tool used by hundreds of AARP staff and volunteers.

He also serves as the media spokesperson for AARP on major national and state public policy issues.

Prior to joining AARP, Ernie led and organized campaigns to support farm workers, affordable housing, and environmental issues. He majored in Political Science and Philosophy at San Diego State University.